



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

December 21, 2006

**PASCO COUNTY MAN ENTERS PLEA OF GUILTY  
TO POSSESSION OF AND SALE OF FIREARMS**

United States Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today that JUSTIN MICHAEL COLLINS, age 26, entered a plea of guilty to four counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count of possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number. He entered that plea of guilty to charges in an indictment which a federal grand jury had returned against COLLINS on August 30, 2006.

According to court documents and the testimony at the plea hearing, COLLINS was involved in the sale of four firearms during April and May, 2006 to an undercover detective with the Pasco County's Sheriff's Office. One of the firearms had an obliterated serial number. At the time, COLLINS had previously been convicted of a number of felony offenses in the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court in and for Pasco County, Florida.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is

to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, with the assistance of the Pasco County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jay L. Hoffer of the Special Prosecutions Section in the Tampa Division.